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Distribution of Some South Dakotan Mammals

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The following comments on the distribution of some South Dakotan mammals are based upon collections and observations which I made in the state in 1954 and 1955 while associated with the Zoology Department of the University of South Dakota. Field work in the state was supported by a grant from the University of South Dakota General Research Fund.

***Cryptotis parva parva* (Say) . Least Short-tailed Shrew.**

An example of this shrew, the first reported from South Dakota, was obtained through the courtesy of George Van Dyne, a student at South Dakota State College at Brookings. Mr. Van Dyne found the specimen, which consists of the rostrum and one mandible with covering skin, in a lightly grazed pasture in mixed prairie on the Cottonwood Range Experiment Station, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Cottonwood, Jackson County, South Dakota, in November, 1954. The broken condition of the specimen, No. 2106 Findley Collection, precludes the taking of measurements. The animal is referred to the nominate subspecies on geographic grounds. To my knowledge this species has not been recorded in the Great Plains northwest of a line connecting Yuma County in northeastern Colorado with the area of the type locality in Washington County, Nebraska.

***Urocyon cinereoargenteus ocythous* Bangs. Gray Fox.**

Although the gray fox has long been assumed to occur in South Dakota, actual records of its presence in the state seem to be lacking. Two specimens from the state are preserved in the collections of the University of South Dakota. One, a male, JSF-2074, was obtained at Wessington Springs, approximately 50 miles east of the Missouri River, Jerauld County, on February 29, 1955. External measurements of this specimen in millimeters are : total length 964 ; tail 343 ; hind foot 140 ; ear from notch 75. The second specimen was obtained near Vermillion,

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No. 155 *The Chicago Academy of Sciences, Natural History Miscellanea*

Clay County, in the winter of 1953-54, by Harold Davidson of Vermillion, and consists of the skin only. Les Nelson, State Trapper-Warden at Lake Andes, South Dakota, informed me in May of 1955 that he had observed many red foxes but no grays in the Lake Andes area. Warden, Dean Badger of Redfield, Spink County, reported a gray fox killed near Redfield in 1953, and one killed by himself at an earlier date in Sully County, on the east side of the Missouri.

These data, together with the record of Schantz (1950, p. 147) from Wilton, McClean County, North Dakota, also on the east bank of the Missouri, indicate that the Missouri River may mark the western limit of this species in the northern plains of the United States and that the gray fox occurs sparingly throughout eastern South Dakota.

***Lepus californicus melanotis* Mearns. Black-tailed Jack Rabbit.**

Records of this hare from South Dakota are rare. I know of one, reported by Over and Churchill (1945) from Lyman County, west of the Missouri River. On May 21, 1955, I observed two black-tailed jacks. 25 miles east and 20 miles south of Rapid City, Pennington County. A number of white-tailed jacks were also observed at this locality. The manager of the cafe at Scenic, Pennington County, a few miles from the first locality, informed me that he purchased jack rabbits during the winter of 1954-55, and that approximately 15 per cent were black-tails. Careful investigation revealed no credible reports or specimens of *L. californicus* east of the Missouri River in South Dakota. At Yankton I observed a black-tail at a fur buyer's establishment, but the animal was said to have been taken "over the river in Nebraska."

Literature Cited

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